



OFFICE OF

No. HB 1236

THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF OKLAHOMA

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA.,

May 22, 2023

TIME SIGNED: 8:45 am

TO THE HONORABLE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
AND MEMBERS OF THE OKLAHOMA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FIRST REGULAR SESSION OF THE
FIFTY-NINTH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE

ENROLLED HOUSE BILL NO. 1236:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 11 of Article VI of the Oklahoma Constitution, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 1236.

Enrolled House Bill 1236 would amend the Oklahoma Citizens Participation Act, which is designed to deter lawsuits intended to chill Oklahomans' right of free speech, right to petition and right of association. Currently, defendants who secure dismissal of lawsuits under the Act are entitled to mandatory costs, attorney fees, other expenses, and potential sanctions. The Bill would make discretionary what is now mandatory.

Such a change would undermine the Act's purpose, ensuring a greater frequency of frivolous lawsuits against Oklahomans exercising free speech. Although I would support an amendment providing for mandatory attorney fees only when a strategic lawsuit against public participation (SLAPP) is found to be frivolous, this amendment would go too far in relaxing a needed deterrent.

For these reasons, I have vetoed Enrolled House Bill 1236.

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Delivered to HOUSE:

Date/Time:

5/22/23; 9:28 am

HOUSE:

By

Calvin A. Hancher

Date/Time:

5/22/23 9:40 am

RECEIVED
MAY 22 2023
OKLAHOMA SECRETARY
OF STATE

8:45 am